countries are involved in subversive activities in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to probe the activities of foreign agencies which are funding to the militants in Punjab; and

(c) the details of the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY). (a) to (c) Information on the subject is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Methodology for determining the consumer price indices

1484 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) what are the existing series of index number to cover different groups of workers/people for purposes of price indices,

(b) what is the methodology for determining consumer price indices,

(c) in what ways the existing series of consumer price indices reflect the changes in the cost of living of various groups of people in rural and urban areas; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to build up a composite consumer price index number series so as to properly assess the changes in the cost of living in rural and urban areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN) (a) The Central Government complies the following three series of consumer price index (CPI) numbers:-

(i) Consumer Price Index for industrial workers with 1982 as the base year,

(ii) Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers with 1960-61 as the base years; and

(iii) Consumer Price Index for urban non-manual employees with 1984-85 as the base year

(b) The methodology broadly comprise determining of the basket of goods and services which represent the consumer expenditure pattern of the target population for which the CPI is to be compiled, and collection of consumer prices for the base year and subsequent months on a regular basis The prices are collected from representative outlets which are patronised by the target population All the three consumer price indices are compiled on monthly basis

(c) The CPI measures the change in the consumer expenditure of a fixed basket of items on account of changes in the consumer prices of these items over a period of time with reference to the base year of the series

(d) At present, the Government does not contemplate building a composite CPI series for urban and rural population

Banning of certain dangerous fire works

1485 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of banning certain types of dangerous fire works used during various festivals in the country to avoid mishaps and fire incidents caused by such fire works;

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard, and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Government have prohibited the manufacture, possession and information of any explosive consisting of or containing Sulphur or Sulphuret in admixture with chlorate of potassium or any other Chlorate as they are known to cause mishaps.

(c) Does not arise.